

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 173586

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR LONDON TALKS

1. PARALLEL TO CONSULTATIONS WE ARE ASKING AMBASSADOR
EILTS TO BEGIN WITH EGYPTIANS, YOU SHOULD SEE DAYAN TO
CONVEY TO HIM OUR IDEAS ON HOW WE SHOULD CONDUCT LONDON
TALKS. YOU MAY TELL HIM THAT WE WILL RELAY EGYPTIAN
VIEWS AS SOON AS WE GET TIME WHICH HOWEVER MAY BE SOMEWHAT
DELAYED OWING TO ABSENCE OF SADAT AND KAMEL IN AUSTRIA.
IN MEANTIME WE WOULD LIKE TO GET DAYAN'S REACTION TO OUR
IDEAS.

2. NOW THAT THERE ARE PROPOSALS FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA

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FROM BOTH SIDES ON TABLE, IT SEEMS TO US LONDON TALKS, WHICH
ARE IN EFFECT FIRST DIRECT EXCHANGES BETWEEN TWO SIDES
WITH U.S. PRESENT SINCE TALKS IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE BROKE
OFF IN JANUARY, CAN BEST BE USED BY HAVING EACH SIDE SEEK
CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS. WE ARE
SUGGESTING SAME APPROACH TO SADAT/KAMEL AND RECOMMENDING
THEY COME PREPARED TO OFFER COMMENTS OR ASK QUESTIONS

ABOUT ISRAELI PROPOSAL. DAYAN WILL ALSO NO DOUBT HAVE
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL
THAT HAS JUST BEEN HANDED TO ISRAEL.

3. WE BELIEVE TWO DAYS IN LONDON CAN BEST BE USED IN
THIS FASHION, WITH BOTH SIDES COMMENTING UPON AND SEEKING
CLARIFICATIONS ON WHAT IT REGARDS AS KEY ISSUES IN
OTHER SIDE'S PROPOSALS. WE WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT
DAYAN AND HIS TEAM COME PREPARED WITH QUESTIONS AND
COMMENTS ADDRESSED TO EGYPTIAN POSITION ON WEST BANK/GAZA
ISSUES, AND BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
OF SIMILAR NATURE FROM EGYPTIANS. EITHER SIDE CAN, OF
COURSE, PROPOSE THAT DISCUSSIONS TAKE DIFFERENT TACK AT
ANY POINT DURING PROCEEDINGS.

4. OUR FEELING IS THAT FORMAT FOR TALKS SHOULD BE
INFORMAL AND THAT FORMAL "CONFERENCE" ATMOSPHERE SHOULD
BE AVOIDED. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT TALKS TAKE PLACE
IN VARIOUS SUITES OF DELEGATIONS, WITH MAXIMUM OF FIVE ON
EACH SIDE, SO THAT EVEN WHEN ALL THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS
ARE MEETING OVERALL GROUP WILL STILL BE SMALL ENOUGH TO
PRESERVE ATMOSPHERE OF INFORMALITY. WITH THIS KIND OF
FORMAT IN MIND IT SEEMED LOGICAL TO HOUSE ALL THREE
DELEGATIONS IN SAME HOTEL WHICH ALSO HAS ADVANTAGES FROM
SECURITY POINT OF VIEW.

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5. WE ENVISAGE MIX OF BILATERAL AND TRILATERAL MEETINGS.
ON FIRST DAY, THE EIGHTEENTH, SECRETARY WOULD PROPOSE TO
CALL ON TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS SEPARATELY IN THEIR SUITES.
FOLLOWING THIS, FIRST TRILATERAL SESSION COULD OPEN IN
SECRETARY'S SUITE. AFTER SOME INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY
SECRETARY AND ANY DISCUSSION THAT MAY BE NECESSARY OF
SCHEDULE OR ARRANGEMENTS, SECRETARY WOULD OPEN SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSIONS BY INVITING KAMEL TO SET FORTH AND EXPLAIN
VARIOUS FEATURES OF EGYPTIAN PLAN. DAYAN MIGHT THEN
MAKE ANY OBSERVATIONS HE MIGHT WISH OR POSE QUESTIONS
ABOUT EGYPTIAN PLAN. PROCEDURE WOULD THEN BE REVERSED
IN SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS, WITH KAMEL ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO
ISRAELI PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING TRILATERAL SESSION FIRST DAY,
SECRETARY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE KAMEL AND DAYAN AND THEIR
DELEGATIONS TO LUNCHEON. AFTERNOON WOULD BE GIVEN OVER
TO BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND EACH OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS. NO ACTIVITIES WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR
EVENINGS BUT THEY COULD BE USED FOR FURTHER SESSIONS IF
NEEDED.

6. WE ARE SUGGESTING TO EGYPTIANS THAT IT WOULD BE
DESIRABLE IF THERE COULD BE AT LEAST ONE BILATERAL MEET- '
ING BETWEEN KAMEL AND DAYAN DURING THE TWO DAYS. ;F

EGYPTIANS ARE AGREEABLE, THIS MIGHT MOST LOGICALLY COME
MORNING OF SECOND DAY, PRIOR TO SECOND TRILATERAL
SESSION IN SECRETARY'S SUITE. AFTERNOON OF SECOND DAY

MIGHT AGAIN BE GIVEN TO BILATERALS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND
FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH PERHAPS FINAL BRIEF TRILATERAL
SESSION PRIOR TO PRESS CONFERENCES AND DEPARTURE.

7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, BEYOND THOSE OF FIRST MORNING,
MIGHT BEST BE KEPT SOMEWHAT FLEXIBLE SO AS TO ADJUST TO
REQUIREMENTS OF DISCUSSIONS. WE PUT FOREGOING FORWARD
FOR PLANNING PURPOSES AND WOULD WELCOME ISRAELI COMMENTS
OR ALTERNATIVE IDEAS.

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8. WE ALSO NEED TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO RESULTS WE
WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGE FROM MEETING. WE BELIEVE IT
HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT TALKS END WITH AGREEMENT THAT
FURTHER DIRECT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS SHALL TAKE PLACE.
WE ARE MAKING THIS POINT ALSO TO EGYPTIANS AND ARE HOPEFUL
THAT BY TIME WE ARRIVE IN LONDON WE WILL HAVE THEIR PRO-
POSAL FOR SPECIFIC TIMING AND LOCATION FOR FURTHER
ROUND OF TALKS. AS DAYAN KNOWS, SADAT HAS MENTIONED
AL-ARISH. WOULD TALKS THERE, BEGINNING LATE JULY OR
EARLY AUGUST, BE AGREEABLE TO GOI?

9. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE LONDON TALKS CONCLUDE WITH
JOINT STATEMENT THAT WOULD HAVE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:
STATEMENT THAT TALKS WERE USEFUL, THAT TWO SIDES PLAN TO
CONTINUE CONTACTS WITH VENUE AND DATES SPECIFIED FOR NEXT
ROUND, SECRETARY AFFIRMING U.S. WILL BE
ACTIVELY ENGAGED, SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO SEND AMBASSADOR
ATHERTON TO AREA IMMEDIATELY AFTER LONDON TALKS TO MAINTAIN
CONTINUITY OF DISCUSSIONS, AND SECRETARY'S WILLINGNESS
TO MAKE TRIP HIMSELF AT LATER DATE.

10. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ISRAELI REACTION TO THESE IDEAS.
WE WILL OF COURSE BE IN FURTHER CONTACT WITH DAYAN
BETWEEN NOW AND OUR ARRIVAL IN LONDON TO CONVEY EGYPTIAN
REACTION TO OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR CONDUCT OF LONDON TALKS.
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